

Tuesday 19th February 1895

In two days we had seen all that was interesting. In the morning the Prince visited the Chowk<sup>45</sup> in the native town which is crowded with brokers, beggars, merchants and bad Muslims through out the day. The streets are so narrow that carriages could hardly go. But in the European quarters the green lawns and Bungalows peeping through thick foliage are refreshing to the eye. The roads are very dusty which makes driving unpleasant.

Wednesday 20th February 1895

At 5 in the morning started for Ayodhya which was reached at 9. Our temporary residence though far from comfortable had one great convenience; the proximity of the River Sarayu. The place is infested by monkeys to the great annoyance of the residents, who notwithstanding, seem to pull on very well with them. We visited two or three of the principal temples after [a] bath in the river. We visited the birth place of Ram where the Mohammedan has not failed to build his mosque.<sup>46</sup> Left by 4 o'clock train for Fyzabad [Faizabad] and Benaras.

Thursday 21st February 1895

We passed through very fertile country and arrived at Benaras at 8.20 in the morning. His Highness was received by Mr Lazarus, The Maharaja of Vijayanagar's Agent<sup>47</sup> and taken to the place which is a fine building with every convenience. His Highness bathed in the Ganges which is half a mile from the palace. In the evening took a drive through the principal streets of the town, most of them being extremely narrow. The cold had considerably abated and we had fine weather.

Friday 22nd February 1895

Today the great Siva Ratri.<sup>48</sup> We had a bath in the river, the ghats being all unusually crowded. It was thought advisable to visit the Temple of Vishweswar<sup>49</sup> in the evening, as the crowd was too great in the morning. In the evening when we went there, [it was with great difficulty that we made our way through the crowds which thronged the narrow streets]. The interior of the temple is very small so that it is dangerous to enter without proper bandobast. For us the place was partly cleared and we could get a good Darshan.<sup>50</sup>

Saturday 23rd February 1895

His Highness since the day of arrival used to bathe in the Kedar Ghaut daily. Then we came across several Malayalees,<sup>51</sup> some of whom said they were here for many years. In the evening we visited one of the gardens belonging to the Maharaja and after driving round the College which is a fine building, returned home before 9.30.

